

20 February, 2015

Attn: Public Records Custodian, Brandi Cordova
Northern New Mexico College
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Via Email: bcordova@nnmc.edu

Mrs. Cordova, Mr. Ortiz, NNMC President Barcelo, and NNMC Board of Regents,

I presented for public records inspection on February 19, 2015. Below are details of the harassment and intimidation I faced by NNMC Provost Pedro Martinez and NNMC VP of Institutional Advancement Ricky Serna. I would expect all future public records inspections to be conducted with professionalism and in compliance with NM IPRA.

I expect Mrs. Cordova to send me appointment times for public records inspections for February and March, 2015 so that we may schedule these as soon as possible.

On February 19, 2015 I presented for my appointment for public records inspection at the NNMC Board Room. The public records inspection had been moved to another room, though I was unaware of this fact. As I waited to locate Mrs. Cordova, I was approached by Provost Pedro Martinez.

Provost Pedro Martinez was persistently concerned with my physical presence, demanding I move into and remain in “the designated area.” Although Provost Martinez seemed to be enjoying a breakfast burrito upon my arrival, upon seeing me waiting in the Board Room, Provost Martinez became highly agitated, approaching me no fewer than six times as I waited in and around the Board Room between 9:07 and 9:40 (personal audio and NNMC security camera coverage available) .

At no time was there occasion for such hostile behavior. I had a 9am appointment with Mrs. Cordova, NNMC’s Custodian of Public Records—however; Mrs. Cordova had set up the records in the small room *next to* the Board Room. Thus, upon my arrival, I went directly to the Board Room and called Mrs. Cordova from the Board Room phone. From the same Board Room phone, I then called Ms. Amy Pena, Administrative Assistant to the NNMC President, to let her know I was in the Board Room awaiting my 9am appointment to inspect public records. Both Mrs. Cordova and Ms. Pena were pleasant and professional. I greeted the NNMC Security detail, John and two of the Custodial staff as I waited.

However, in the time it took for me to be directed away from the Board Room, where my appointment had been set, I was accosted by both Provost Pedro Martinez and Mr. Ricky Serna. During that time, Provost Martinez—who, as I understand, has no role in the management of public records—was strangely vigilant, refusing to leave my physical space. At my arrival,

Provost Martinez took an aggressive personal interest in my appointment for public records inspection.

Provost Martinez began to give orders of where I should be sitting, standing, and referred several times to a “designated space.” Provost Martinez seemed to be enforcing a personal set of unarticulated rules. He was watchful and heated, at one point following me toward the bathroom and then into the college’s adjoining bookstore. Provost Martinez stayed physically within 5-feet of me in the small, glass-windowed bookstore, following me as I browsed sale items. Indeed, Provost Martinez followed me for over half an hour, on the public property of a state institution—as though protecting his own private property. At no time did the trained NNMC security detail engage in this unnecessary, intimidating, and threatening behavior. (Personal audio and NNMC security camera coverage can confirm each of these hostile encounters.)

As I was led to the small room next to the Board Room by Mrs. Cordova, I was accosted by Mr. Ricky Serna. Mr. Serna stopped me, expressing an urgent desire to give his opinion on my personal social media account. This was not only unprofessional, it was strangely juvenile. I attempted to diffuse Mr. Serna’s hostility by thanking him for his attention and patting him with a friendly gesture on his shoulder. He responded angrily with, “You don’t have to touch me.” Mr. Serna continued to walk next to, and then ahead of me, talking while I was simply trying to proceed behind Mrs. Cordova toward the room in which the public records had been placed.

These encounters were especially menacing as the building was fairly empty—with no students and only NNMC staffers, leaving me vulnerable, isolated, and encircled by two men of stature (I am just over 5 feet tall) as I simply waited to complete my scheduled public records inspection. NNMC Security, though aware of the continuing hostile confrontations by Provost Martinez and Mr. Serna, did not intervene in the harassment by Provost Martinez and Mr. Serna, and did nothing to protect a public citizen on public State property.

I would urge you to discuss with your staffers—Provost Martinez and Mr. Serna, in particular—the intent of NM IPRA, as well as guidelines for compliance. IPRA is routine and part of the basic business operations of all public, state and local government agencies. NNMC and all other public bodies are subject to the Act and the Act’s requirements. Such agencies comply with NM IPRA guidelines as regular course of business.

NM IPRA requires that the public records custodian provide “proper and reasonable opportunities to inspect public records” and “reasonable facilities to make or furnish copies” of such public records (14-2-7). The practices of harassment and intimidation by male NNMC staffers (originally Mr. Bernie Padilla and Mr. Serna) have now escalated to harassment and intimidation by the NNMC Provost, Mr. Pedro Martinez, and strangely disconnected, emotional verbal outbursts by Mr. Ricky Serna. Such behavior is neither proper nor reasonable as outlined by NM IPRA. As you are aware, I continue to await the release of public records (inventory of missing records attached) and I expect all public records inspections scheduled with the NNMC Custodian of Public Records to be handled with proper professionalism and full compliance with NM IPRA.

Attached is a public records request for all NNMC surveillance video captured on February 19, 2015 between the hours of 9:05 and 9:45, from my entry to the NNMC Main Building to my entry into the small east side room to which the public records inspection had been moved. I would suggest that the review of such footage will also be helpful to NNMC Administrators and Regents.

I encourage your office, the NNMC Regents, NNMC legal counsel, Administrators, and officers legally responsible for NM IPRA compliance, here duly informed, to act in good faith and in accordance with NM IPRA.

I appreciate your office's prompt attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Annette Rodríguez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annette" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rodríguez".

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Cc: NNMC President Nancy "Rusty" Barcelo, NNMC Board of Regents Legal Counsel Tony Ortiz, Members of the NNMC Board of Regents